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Let's Talk Agriculture

WINTER 1997-98 Volume 4 Issue 2

CANADIANA

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Northwest Processor....

Do you sell a food product at the Farmers' Market, to a restaurant, gift basket company, through an abattoir, or off your farm gate?

To learn more about trends, current issues, the latest research, funding, upcoming programs, and to make value-added processing connections.....you'll want to receive the NORTHWEST PROCESSOR newsletter!

Contact Sharon Homeniuk at Alberta Agriculture in Stony Plain @ 963-6101 to get yourself on the mailing list!

Linking rural processors with research, technology and information....

News from AFSC....

Reduced Interest Rate

The interest rate for the Beginning Farmer Program will be reduced to 7.5% from 9% effective April 1, 1998. The Beginning Farmer Incentive will be reduced to 1.5% from 3% for an unchanged net rate of 6% for the first 5 years.

Disaster Assistance Loan Program/Crop Loss Option

Financial assistance under this program is available to a primary producer who has experienced a disaster due to multiple years of crop loss as a result of unfavourable weather conditions that has jeopardized the viability of the farming operation. Direct loans may be made up to a maximum of $100,000 per qualifying individuals to restore sufficient working capital to maintain farming operations. **The interest rate is 7%.** For the first 2 years of the loan, no interest or principal repayment will be required.

*If the viability of your farm has been jeopardized by weather related crop losses, call **Orest or Allen in the Stony Plain office at 963-6101.***

Commercial Berry Production School

This course, offered by the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, will cover things like setting up a berry farm, site selection, signage, as well as plant varieties, irrigation, pest and weed management. Individual crops, including strawberries and raspberries will be in focus!

WHERE: Regency Hotel, Edmonton
WHEN: February 11 & 12, 1998
HOW: Call Sharon @ 963-6101 for more information.

New Publications For Sale:

* How Herbicides Work
* Tax Management Strategies for Farmers
* AFSC Farm Record Keeping Book

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Taste Of Success '98!

Registration packages are now available!

Taste Of Success is a program for Albertans that are producing a food product. It includes a review of your product, consumer evaluations, workshops and consultations with Alberta Agriculture staff and industry experts.

Save time and money on the development of your product, access valuable advice from industry experts, get media exposure and expand your business network!

Call Sharon Homeniuk, Rural Development Specialist - Business, in Stony Plain, at 963-6101 (toll-free via 310-0000), for your registration package today!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is **January 23, 1998.**

Taste of Success
A product & market development opportunity for rural food processors!

Farm Credit Corporation

Specialized Financing for Canada's Agriculture Industry

Farming has moved beyond the farm gate, and FCC is moving with the industry. The majority of our lending still involves land, crops, livestock and equipment for full-time farmers. However, FCC also finances value-added and farm diversification ventures. Let us put our expertise and experience to work for you. We make it a priority to know agriculture and agriculture financing.

Talk to Glen Svenungard, your FCC Credit Advisor, at 963-6547.

Herbicide Update

by Ty Faechner, Crop Specialist - Cereals & Oilseeds

Cleavers has been found in Central Alberta to be **resistant** to group 2 herbicides, including Refine Extra, Pursuit and Amber.

It was found to be **not resistant** to Attain, Pardner, RoundUp or Liberty. More importantly, it was found to be **resistant** to Accord, a group 4 herbicide.

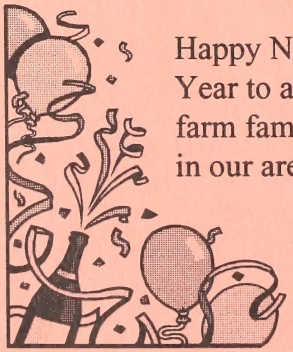
So next spring, after spraying, check your fields to see what weeds are controlled by the herbicide you applied. If the weed is on the label and it is not controlled, contact our office.

For more information, call Ty, Crop Specialist, @ 963-6101.

AFSC Crop Insurance Operations...

Forage Insurance application **deadline is February 28, 1998.**

For 'what's new' with Forage Insurance and Crop Insurance in 1998, call **Bette at (403) 963-0600.**



Happy New Year to all the farm families in our area!!

Upcoming Meetings...

January 9/98 - Pedigree Seed Growers Update (cereal & oilseed varieties) @ Westlock Community Hall.

February 12/98 - Super Canola Meeting @ Josephburg Community Hall (9-4)

Canola Production Meetings -
February 19/98 @ Neerlandia
February 24/98 @ Wetaskiwin

*** Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development ***
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*** Farm Credit Corporation ***
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